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Urban District of
PORTSLADE-BY-SEA



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1950

by

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., also M.O.H. of
Hove.

SURVEYOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, M.Inst.Mun.E.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., C.R.S.I.

Urban District of Portslade - by - Sea

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the Statutory obligations of my appointment I am presenting my Annual Report for the year 1950, and included with it, as on previous occasions, are copies of my reports on the Health of the School Children and the Welfare Services for the area of Hove and Portslade administered under delegated powers from the East Sussex County Council.

The general health of the community in the absence of any extensive or severe outbreaks of infectious disease remained good, and the deaths were mainly from diseases and conditions associated with old age and the general wear and tear of life. The incidence of the major infections was light and although there was a threefold increase in the number of Measles, half under the age of 5, the type was mild and there were no deaths. Although 1950 was a Poliomyelitis year throughout the rest of the country—8,709 cases—Portslade escaped with only 1 case. The major incident of the closing days of the year was the Smallpox Outbreak and although it continued until the early part of February 1951, it falls more naturally to be referred to in this year's report. On its termination I submitted to the Council a comprehensive report on its effect on Portslade and therefore, only salient features need be referred to here. The original infection was brought into this country by a R.A.F. officer from India towards the end of November. He developed a mild attack with a very scanty eruption which was not seen by a medical practitioner at the time and he infected two persons in the house in Brighton where he was staying. One of these was a telephone operator who, prior to her admission to Bevendean Hospital was looked after by a colleague living in Portslade, who subsequently became the fourth case in a very mild form. In all there were 35 cases—29 confirmed, with

10 deaths, distributed among three foci—Bevendean Hospital, to which the second case had been admitted under observation (13 cases), Telephone Exchange (2 cases)—and the laundry to which was sent the clothing from the infected house where the R.A.F. officer had stayed (6 cases, 2 deaths). In addition there were 5 cases among the general public in which there was a presumptive contact with some of the earlier cases. Of the 10 fatal cases, 7 had been unvaccinated and 3 in infancy only, over 50 years earlier. So far as Portslade was concerned, control centred on the tracing, vaccination and supervision of the contacts, and the visiting of cases with suspicious rashes and symptoms. In response to the public demand, a vaccination centre was set up in the Hove Town Hall, which the general public attended in large numbers, and the general practitioners also vaccinated a similar number privately in their own surgeries. The total number of vaccinations of Portslade residents amounted to 6,405—2,558 at the Town Hall and 3,847 by private practitioners. The routine supervision of contacts fell mainly upon Mr. Donald, and I am glad to acknowledge the help I received from him in this respect. He paid over 600 visits to houses and I myself saw 81 individual persons. Fortunately the type of smallpox in this outbreak was not infectious to casual contacts otherwise our problems would have been all the greater. The Portslade case, for example, had visited quite a number of stores and shops on Christmas Eve whilst she was incubating the disease but there was no spread from that source. A great many lessons can be learned from this experience out of which I might emphasise the importance of general practitioners notifying the Medical Officer of Health at once of suspicious cases with doubtful rashes. Prior to the National Health Act 1946 he automatically received this information because in most cases he was the channel of admission to the local Infectious Diseases Hospital, but since that date he usually only hears about a case after it has been admitted to hospital.

Nurses and workers in hospitals and perhaps laundry workers, should be protected by successful vaccination and re-vaccination. Smallpox is no respecter of localities or persons and in these days of rapid air travel it can be introduced anywhere and at any time. It is essential, therefore, that everyone should be on the look-out for it not only now, while the memory of recent events is fresh, but in years to come, when it may have faded.

The table giving details of Diphtheria Immunisation during 1950 shows that approximately 32% of children between the

ages of 1—5 and 73% of children between 5—15 have up-to-date been immunised. This is a drop in the under 5 group compared with 1949, and if it continues, Portslade's record of only two Diphtheria cases in the past 5 years may be in jeopardy. The vaccination returns are vitiated for comparison purposes by the smallpox outbreak but it is evident from the response since the event that the value of infant vaccination has been more fully appreciated by the average mother and it is to be hoped that she will continue as a matter of course, to have her infant vaccinated during the first six months of life.

The Birth-rate following the general trend of affairs throughout the country, has fallen from 16.82 to 13.45, whilst the Death-rate at all ages rose from 10.50 to 11. The Infant Mortality Rate rose to 27 per 1,000 births.

The new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis rose from 7 to 19—6 being under the age of 15 and a further 11 between the ages of 20—45.

Housing conditions continue to present a big problem here as elsewhere and despite the erection of 50 new houses by the Council and 15 by Private enterprise, judging by the number letters I receive, there still remains a long list of unsatisfied applicants.

I have once again to record my thanks to the Clerk of the Council, Mr. Tozer, the Surveyor, Mr. Rudgley, and the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Donald, who have always been willing to assist me in the solution of any problems or difficulties I put before them, and at the same time I am conscious of the support that I continue to receive from the Sanitary and Housing Committees of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population : 13,570.

BIRTHS :		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	..	86	89	175
Illegitimate	..	6	2	8

Birth Rate : 13.48 (Standard).
14.45 (Corrected).

STILL BIRTHS : 3.

1. Rate per 1,000 Births : 16.3.

DEATHS :

Male .. 78

Female .. 83 Total : 161.

Death Rate : 11.62 (Standard).
11.86 (Corrected).

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-
birth : 1.

Death of infants under 1 year of age : 5.

Rate per 1,000 births : 27.32.

Deaths from :

Measles (all ages) ..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	..	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..	..	2
Pneumonia ..	..	6
Cancer (all forms) ..	..	31

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

DRAINAGE.

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :

There are 9 houses served by cesspools, of these cesspools 2 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 2 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act.

In addition there are 4 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :

Houses inspected for housing defects	..	281
Number of inspections made for the purpose		517
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	..	260
Number of inspections made for that purpose		454
Number of complaints received	.. ..	186
Informal Notices served (P.H. & H. Act)	..	106
Statutory Notices served	.. ..	10
Houses found dirty or verminous	..	16
Houses with insufficient refuse bin	..	18

Defective Drains	..	..	..	149
Defective Closets	..	..	..	34
Defective Sinks	..	..	..	7
Defective Roofs and Gutters		..	..	80
Defective Paving of Yards		..	..	16
Damp and Defective Walls and Ceilings			..	241
Defective Floors	..	..	..	34
Defects to Windows, Doors, Grates, etc.			..	190

RATS AND MICE (Destruction Act, 1919).

The campaign in the eradication of Rats and Mice has been continued, and a treatment of all the sewers in the district has been successfully completed. Although the tests showed infestation in the sewers, none were heavy and the treatment carried out was successful.

The Rodent Operator dealt with 153 infestations on surface properties, and paid 612 visits for that purpose. This is an increase on the number of infestations dealt with last year, and this was probably due to the free service now provided which undoubtedly has resulted in the public reporting infestation without the fear of having to pay for the treatment carried out.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year 9 houses were found to be infested with vermin, and were disinfested as follows :
- (2) By removing and easing all woodwork, architraves, skirting-boards, etc., and spraying with insecticides, and in some cases by the use of gaseous fumigants.

This work has been carried out by the Council, and the cost of materials used has been charged to the Owner or Occupier.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	281
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	517
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	4
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	12
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	277

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.*

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	142
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*A. *Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :	
(a)	By Owners	9
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 2 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) | By Owners | 10 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of Owners | — |

C. *Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation | — |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made | — |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | — |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) : | |
| (a) | To render the house fit for human habitation | — |
| (b) | As to usage other than for human habitation | — |

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | — |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | — |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. There is only 1 Farm in the district from which milk is supplied.

There is 1 Dairy in the district, 1 Cowkeeper, 12 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 6 Retailers and Dairy-men who deliver milk in this district.

ICE CREAM. There are 2 premises registered for manufacture of Ice Cream, and 35 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :

235lbs. of beef, 301lbs. of fish, 20 tins of corned beef, 442 cans of food, 80lbs. of boiled ham, 12lbs. of bacon, 11lbs. of cheese, 85lbs. of oranges, 53 packets of gravy mixture, 23 jars of jam, 25 packets of pudding mixture, 18 packets of shredded wheat.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	30	21	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	48	52	2	<i>Nil</i>
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	5	9	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
TOTAL ..	83	82	2	<i>Nil</i>

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	3	3	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	3	3	—	3	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1	—
TOTAL	11	11	—	9	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality, 1950.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
35	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	6	—	—	—	1	1	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS DURING 1950.

DISEASE	Totals	Under 5 yrs.	5—14	15—44	45—64	65 Over	Age unkn'wn	Remov'd Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	30	11	16	3					
Whooping Cough	29	16	13						
Measles ..	231	106	120	3			2		
Pneumonia	16	2	5	2	4	3			6
Erysipelas	6			1	2	3			
Poliomyelitis	1		1						
Smallpox	1			1				1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1			1					
Totals ..	315	135	155	11	6	6	2	1	6

VACCINATION DURING SMALLPOX OUTBREAK.

Portslade Residents.

	<i>At the Public Health Dept.</i>	<i>By Private Doctors</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number Vaccinated	2558	3847	6405

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION RETURN
FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

Number of Children who completed a Full Course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents) in the Year.

Age at date of final Injection		Total
Under 5	5—14	
105.	79	184

Total Number of Children who were given a Secondary or Re-inforcing Injection (*i.e.*, subsequent to complete full course).

During Year ended 31st December, 1950.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of Children at 31st December, 1950, who had completed a Course of Immunisation at any time before that date.

(i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1936).

Age at 31-12-50, <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1950	1 1949	2 1948	3 1947	4 1946	5 to 9 1941-1945	10 to 14 1936-1940	Total under 15
Number Immunised	2	91	112	149	139	904	546	1943
Estimated Mid-Year Child Population 1950	Children under 5. 1148					Children 5-14 1990		
								3138

The number of children immunized during the year was 184.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

VACCINATION ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during Period.					
AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 and over	Total
Number Vaccinated	67	34	37	48	186
Number Re-Vaccinated ..	1	—	10	85	96